The Second Brood of *Apatele euphorbiae* s.sp. *myricae* Gn. in the West of England

By H. C. Huggins, F.R.E.S.*

With regard to Mr. d'Arcy's query about August *myricae* in Galway, it has been known for many years that this moth has a second brood in Western Ireland. It is mentioned by Donovan (*Cat. Macrolepidoptera of Ireland*, p. 34) and Baynes (*Rev. Cat. Irish Macrolepidoptera*, p. 42 and *Suppl.*, p. 10).

Dr. de Worms suggested a few years ago that this second brood was part of one long brood as the period of emergence in so many Irish insects is a much extended one. This, however, is not the case for two reasons. Firstly, the insect appears in May and the first fortnight of June and then disappears completely until early August. In the Burren I have taken it in the first fortnight of June and never again until 15th August, 1964. I have also totally failed to see it at Dingle, Co. Kerry, except for one specimen mentioned later, from the second week in June until mid August, although except for 1965 I stayed there the whole summer from 1964-1972, apart from short visits elsewhere. After mid August I have taken it at Dingle and also at Inch in 1967.

The second reason is that the larva has been found in June and July in Cork and Kerry and bred out in August. Donovan (*op. cit.*) mentions taking the larva at Courtmacsherry, Co. Cork in June and July 1901 and breeding the moths about a month afterwards. Baynes (*op. cit.*) records finding the larva at Slea Head, Dingle, Co. Kerry, 5.vii.61 and breeding the moth 20.viii.61.

The details of the Baynes record are very vivid to me still. Baynes and I were on Coomenooole beach, then a fine collecting place before the new road filled it with motors, picnic parties and bathers, when we saw about 20 feet up on the cliff a larva feeding on dock. Baynes did not know it, but I had one preserved in my collection so recognised it at once. The ascent was 20 feet sheer but by a circuitous climb of over 25 feet it might be reached. The business seemed a bit doubtful (we were both over 70) as there was not only the risk of a slip and broken bones but also that of dislodging small stones and causing the larva to drop into a crack. However, as Baynes had no southern Irish *myricae* then, he tried it and succeeded to my relief.

The odd specimen I mentioned previously, is a fresh male taken at Dingle at M.V. on 15.vii.69. I am of the opinion that this moth, which I still have, is a very early one of the second brood. The winter of 68/69 was very mild in that part of Kerry, a friend to whom I wrote that my garden was under snow in February, replied that the temperature had not gone below 50°F. even at night in Tralee. I think therefore that my July specimen is the result of an early pairing in May.

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